

*Replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 33 with:*

b3  
Preferably, the hang tag 78 is formed of an oriented, cross-laminated film. It is noteworthy that a cross-laminated film differs from a cross-linked product. In this respect, a cross-laminated film pertains to a multi-ply product that includes individual plies that are positioned so that their orientation directions are at 45° angles in structure, thereby achieving desirable tensile and tear properties, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. For example, the cross-laminated film can be formed as an extruded product using blown film technology. One example of a commercially available cross-laminated material is C2S Valeron Film (e.g., 7.5 mil), which is available from Van Leer Strength Films, Houston, Texas. The C2S Valeron Film includes 4 oriented strength plies, 3 lamination plies, a clay coating, and a binder in the clay coating that promotes adherence to the Valeron film. A thin layer of polyethylene is present between each of the oriented plies. However, it is to be noted that the hang tag 78 does not need to be cross-laminated inasmuch as the hang tag 78 could be reinforced in another manner, such as, for example, the use of a grommet 77 which could be made of metal (e.g., brass) or plastic.

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Replace the indicated claims with:*

b4  
Subcl  
~~14. (Amended) A hang tag capable of automatically and permanently being attached to an elongated object by a machine having at least one jaw suitable for applying a securement strap to an object, the hang tag comprising:~~

~~a first surface, a second surface, and a slot defined therebetween, wherein said slot has minimum dimensions of at least about 0.25 inches by about 1 inch so as to be capable of permitting the jaw to travel through the slot so that the securement strap can be threaded through the slot automatically by the jaw of the machine.~~

15. (Amended) The hang tag of claim 14, further comprising at least one edge, wherein said slot is provided more than about 0.10 inches from each edge.